


# **APPENDIX J**

## **SUDDEN OAK DEATH PROTOCOLS**



<b>Vegetation Management</b>		 <b><i>Pacific Gas and Electric Company</i></b>
Sudden Oak Death Protocols	Created	11/1/02
Version 2	Revised	6/9/04

## IN COUNTIES WHERE SUDDEN OAK DEATH IS CONFIRMED

### BE CAREFUL:

Oak trees killed by Sudden Oak Death (SOD) tend to fail much more quickly than trees killed by other means, probably because the tree is starting to rot while it still appears to be alive. The typical location of tree failure is at breast height. Extreme care must be taken when working in infected areas, as stem failure can occur at any time, even on green oaks.

### **HOST SPECIES (TREE SPECIES ONLY):**

Coast live oak	Toyon	Buckeye	Big leaf maple
Canyon live oak	Tanoak	California Black Oak	Redwood (< 1" diameter)
Shreve oak	Madrone	California bay laurel	Douglas-fir (< 1" diameter)

Many shrub species are infected and the best current list can be found at [suddenoakdeath.org](http://suddenoakdeath.org)

### INFESTED AREAS:

Portions of the following counties have been confirmed with *Phytophthora ramorum*, the fungus that causes SOD: Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma. Current maps which show the locations of disease centers and the quarter mile radius can be obtained from website [suddenoakdeath.org](http://suddenoakdeath.org) to determine the infested area.

### PRE-INSPECTION PROTOCOL:

Within areas infested with SOD and ¼ mile radius (see up-to-date maps), pre-inspectors must assume that host material is infested. Enter the following information into the handheld computer:

1. Under Alerts, enter 'SOD'.
2. In address comments field, enter 'SOD Infested, leave host vegetation on site'.
3. On oak trees, prescribe a heavy prune that does not require utility crews to return to the tree – protect the power facilities by removing overhangs and branches which could hit the lines in the event of failure. In tree comments field, enter 'SUS SOD'.
4. On other host trees, in tree comments field enter 'SUS SOD' and "leave host vegetation on site".

5. On non-host trees, prescribe and comment without reference to SOD.

**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR TREE CREWS:**

1. In infested areas, all debris from host species (wood, branches and chips) shall be left on site.
2. Tools used to perform work shall be disinfected before leaving heavily infested sites.
3. State Law requires that host material not be transported from an infected county into an uninfected county without a compliance agreement filed with both the receiving and departing county agricultural commissioners.